

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11 August 2008 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Denis Maloney on 20 August 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim, line 1, "the member" has been deleted.

Claim 9, line 1, "the first member" has been deleted.

Claim 26:

Line 3, "a either battery" has been changed to --either a battery--.

Line 4, "an the" has been changed to --an--.

Line 6, "member" has been changed to --first member--; and "an interconnect" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Line 16, "the member" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Line 1, "the member" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Claim 27, line 2, "the member" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Claim 28, lines 2-3, "the member" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Claim 31:

Line 8, "member" has been changed to --first member--; and "an interconnect" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

line 18, "the interface" has been changed to --the interconnect--.

Claims 36-39 have been canceled.

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant:

Figure 10, the reference character "10" will be changed to "20", as per the instant specification, page 14, line 12.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art references of record failed to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, what is instantly claimed, in particular,

An adapter comprises:

a first member including appropriate mating fittings disposed on a common surface of the first member;

a second member housing electronics to convert power incident at an input of the adapter to an output power level at the appropriate mating fittings of the first member; and

a first pair of wires coupled between an input of the first member and output of the second member; and

a second pair of wires coupled from an input of the second member to an electronic plug.
(claims 5-9)

A hybrid power supply comprises:

an interconnect including appropriate mating fittings to allow the interconnect to connect to a either battery, or a source of fuel for a fuel cell system or an adaptor;

an adapter comprises:

a first member including appropriate mating fittings disposed on a common surface of the first member to allow the first member to connect to the interconnect on the hybrid power supply;

a second member housing electronics to convert power incident at an input of the adapter to an output power level at the appropriate mating fittings of the first member; and

a first pair of wires coupled between an input of the first member and output of the second member; and

a second pair of wires coupled from an input of the second member to an electronic plug; and

a switching type DC/DC boost type converter coupled to the interconnect and which receives energy from a fuel cell or from an external battery connected to the interconnect, and which is arranged to deliver the energy to a rechargeable cell, the DC/DC converter configured to provide substantially constant current drain from the fuel cell. (*claims 26-30*)

A hybrid power supply comprises:

a fuel cell;

an interconnect including appropriate mating fittings to allow the interconnect to connect to a either battery, or a source of fuel for the fuel cell system or an adaptor;

an adapter, an adapter comprises:

a first member including appropriate mating fittings disposed on a common surface of the first member to allow the first member to connect to an interconnect;

a second member housing electronics to convert power incident at an input of the adapter to an output power level at the appropriate mating fittings of the first member; and

a first pair of wires coupled between an input of the first member and output of the second member; and

a second pair of wires coupled from an input of the second member to an electronic plug; and

a switching type DC/DC boost type converter that receives energy from the fuel cell or an external battery connected to the interface and is arranged to deliver the energy to a rechargeable cell;

a fuel cell current sensor/comparator, included in a feedback control loop disposed about the DC/DC converter, which controls in part operation of the converter to provide constant current discharge on the fuel battery side of the hybrid power supply. (*claims 31-35*)

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS H. PARSONS whose telephone number is (571)272-1290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pat Ryan can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/PATRICK RYAN/
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